

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Norfolk, Bristol, and Middlesex Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Norfolk, Bristol, and Middlesex Senatorial District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.9% (1,168) reside in the Norfolk, Bristol, and Middlesex Senatorial District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (221) of Norfolk, Bristol, and Middlesex Senatorial District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 73.1% of admissions from the Norfolk, Bristol, and Middlesex Senatorial District were male and 26.9% were female.
- Over 57.1% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 87.4% of admissions were white non-Latino, 4.9% were black non-Latino, 4.5% were Latino, 0.8% were Asians, and 2.4% were other racial categories.
- 62.5% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 15.1% were married, and 14.9% reported not to be married now.
- 25.9% of admissions had less than high school education, 49.8% completed high school, and 24.3% had more than high school education.
- 44.1% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 10.7% of those admitted were homeless.
- 11.3% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Norfolk, Bristol, and Middlesex Senatorial District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Use FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Norfolk, Bristol, and Middlesex Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,216	1,065	363	321	153	209	145
FY '96	1,230	1,089	397	332	162	232	160
FY '97	1,338	1,179	242	304	142	230	162
FY '98	1,347	1,158	401	320	135	280	196
FY '99	1,348	1,144	441	308	116	275	207
FY '00	1,267	1,043	407	299	127	273	195
FY '01	1,168	971	368	264	125	273	186

- Since peaking in FY 1997, residents of Norfolk, Bristol, and Middlesex Senatorial District reported a leveling off in alcohol use.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting marijuana, cocaine, crack, and heroin use have remained fairly steady.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Norfolk, Bristol, and Middlesex Senatorial District.

Table 2					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	61.8%	19.4%	8.6%	4.4%	2.7%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin as a primary drug of use in your Senatorial District was lower than the State average, alcohol and marijuana were higher within your District.